

with the fountain of life and that soon. He must feel the touch of him who says I am "The Life." The "why" and the "how" of which the theologians make so much are of small consequence to him. When he is once safe or when he becomes a theologian, if ever, he may look into, and dispute with others about the "why" and the "how."

a. Why did not Paul reprove the superstition of those Ephesians who believed that his body could charge "handkerchiefs and aprons" with healing power, and that in these they could carry this healing power to their sick and dying? Why did he not say, "It is the naked power of Christ that heals and saves, and these things can be of no earthly use. Look to him and be healed?" Acts xix:12.

b. When the people sought to touch the hem of Christ's garment why did he not correct their foolishness? Why did he not say, "O! foolish people, there is no virtue in the hem of my garment or in a touch! The power is in me and at my command. Only believe where you stand and you shall be healed." But no, this is not the divine way. On the one side stood suffering, on the other, love. Love is never a stickler for method. These people are in distress. They believe Christ and Paul can help them and Christ and Paul are so moved with their need that they have no time to trouble about how the people show their need and their faith. They will first relieve and save then teach.

c. These are models for us. And the nineteenth century church must submit to this test. When a sinner cries out for help, do not stop him by saying "come this or go that way, or you can get no help." He knows what he wants. He wants a Savior. Let him to Christ. If he feels that he can get there by his mother's apron strings or by the hem of a sacred garment, what is that to you? Let him come! Let him be healed! Let him be saved! Then let the Healer, the Savior, in His own way, by His own word and Spirit teach him the "how" and the "why." If they will not come in your way let them come in their own way. What men—what all men—want is the help and the salvation that Christ gives and the church that subordinates this work to

that of indoctrinating men must suffer the inevitable. Let our argument be deeds of love, not theories and doctrines. The two essential elements of the Christian religion are helpfulness and holiness. James i: 27. Are you, am I fulfilling these conditions?

IV. *Practical conclusions.*

1 Bring your doubts and difficulties to Christ. John did not go to Christ's enemies for information about him—not to the Pharisees, Sadducees or Herodians—not to the Romans or the Greeks but to Christ himself. This is the way to get the answer of peace.

2 A blessing promised. We may find many things in the church wrong. It comes far short of the example set by her Great Head: but blessed is the man that in all these contradictions comes to Christ and finds in him no occasion of stumbling. It is He and not the church that saves.

Essays and Contributions.

A BOLD DECLARATION BY A CONSERVATIVE BROTHER.

DAUPHIN CO. PENNA. Dec. 27, 1894.

UNION DEPOSIT. J. W. RITTER.

MY DEAR BROTHER:—

With me the pet technicalities of faction count nothing. Whoever wears the priestly mitre, with the golden plate thereon bearing the inscription—HOLINESS TO THE LORD, is one of God's elect. Conservative is a beautiful name indicative of a beautiful fact. Progressive, ditto. But in God's economy they are never separated. What a universe this would be were the centripetal and centrifugal forces of nature to quarrel with each other. Thank you for your letter of Christmas compliments. The stamps are opportune. My pen ministry is a very humble and apparently insignificant service; but in all its implications and ramifications it involves larger expense than my food and raiment. I glory in it, and "no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of"—this terrestrial planet. II Cor. 11: 10. In the wilderness of trial, in the furnace of suffering, among the wild beasts of Ephesus, in the gloom of Gethsemane, on the cross of Golgotha, in the glory of Easter, in many forms of discipline known only to God and

myself have I been trained to this silent preaching of the glorious gospel of the blessed Christ. While some of the Sanhedrim and scribes scold and stone me, the common people still listen gladly to "the truth as it is in Jesus." God forbid that I should recklessly wound any one. God forbid that I should suppress the truth for fear of wounding. The sword that cuts is anointed with the oil that heals. Your letter breathes humility. For such there is large hope, great joy, certain victory. "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble." Great and marvelous are the encouragements to the "meek and lowly in heart." Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due season. I Peter 5:6. God is never in a hurry. He knows the worth of character, and we must learn to bide his time. Thirty years training for a three years ministry seems disproportionate. But all that Christ has to say to this arrangement "Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight." To be Christ-minded is not only to be saved, but to reach the highest efficiency in the dispensation of grace. "Learn of me", is the all-inclusive commandment. There are few docile students in the great seminary that prepares souls for the diploma of eternal glory, and blessedness. "Many called, few chosen." Only the crucified obtain the degree of Rom. 8: 17. and I Pet. 4: 13. Alas for the others! Math. 7: 22, 23. Nothing is Christianity but, dead with Christ, risen with Christ, walking with Christ, living Christ. Not church and ritual, necessary as both are, but "Christ in us the hope of glory." An infleshed God will make the flesh the vehicle of all the beauty and glory of the Divine perfection. "Who is sufficient for these things?" "Our sufficiency is of God." II Cor. 2: 16. and 3: 5. See also I Cor. 1: 24. 30. Eph. 6: 10. and Philpp. 4: 13. Verily, man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

C. H. BALSBAUGH.

The poorest education that teaches self-control is better than the best that neglects it.